

The scars as a teacher of perseverance and resilience.

Scars are signs of experienced pain. But, due to choice, you can either learn or stay self-sabotaging. Actually, I was born in a family of five members, but now we are unfortunately reduced to three. Therefore, my mother, sister, and I remained. Before my father's passing, we were sorted into the last social inferiority of humble origin. Because of my father's gap, our poverty deepened. Even our extended family had abandoned us, but the majority of them were rich.

To manage poverty, my mom sent me to my aunt's place where I faced worse conditions such as child abuse, herding cows at the age of 12, and I was sometimes restricted from eating. At the age of 13, I returned home and found my mom extremely sick with a disability caused by an intestine tumour and backbone problem due to her selflessness and working tirelessly for my other sibling to survive. Truly, my mom is a crippled person and unhealthy due to the fact that my father died leaving her pregnant and leaving us in extreme poverty. So, my mother continued to work hard to prevent us from starving.

When she heard of any dead person, she could be traumatised because she immediately remembered her daughter and her husband she had recently buried. Working more than her body could handle, she miscarried. But she didn't stop because she felt responsible and couldn't pass the buck. At the end, she ravaged her backbone and had a sick intestine tumour, but she could move in short distances but nothing she could perform. During this period, I developed an interest in Mathematics, chemistry, and Biology (MCB) as I realised that many health issues, including my mom's illness, were rooted in cellular and microbiological processes.

I began to read about the importance of understanding these processes in preventing and treating diseases. My experiences also made me realise that there is a significant gap in healthcare services for women who have experienced similar struggles as my mom. Joining advanced level at GS APAPEDUC Bungwe, I continued with the spirit of being a change towards others by joining various clubs such as anti-drugs, business club as vice president and minister of health. Despite having extra diseases like asthma, heart sickness, and kidney disease, I worked responsibly as a patriotic girl. Throughout this, I learned that wealth and money is not possession but being people-oriented, serving as role models and having accountability values.

Reaching senior six, I got a serious issue with my right hand that made it lame and paralyzed. So, it seemed impossible to do a national exam and I repeated a year in different schools at GS Kagorogoro to wait for my fingers to heal.

On my arrival at Kagorogoro, everyone was very inspired by my background story and the kindness that was appearing inside me. So, the school church appointed me as president of Christian church at school. I continued God's calling until the district trusted me for leading all Christian churches in Burera district. Finally, time came to do the national examination, but still my fingers were unable to move. Then, I decided to use my left fingers because I was afraid of being delayed in high school. Due to the experienced obstacles, I ended up succeeding but succeeded with unpleasant grades. Now, my fingers are not completely healthy but I can write and learn.

To conclude, life seemed very bad from the past but its pain left scars as a reminder of working hard and a motivator instead of defining me. Due to my big vision, noticeable achievements are not enough to boast but after God's grace I got healed of many of the illnesses such as asthma that used to limit me from success and expectation. As a result, I hope to improve and learn new valuable items. Now, the time of blocking the limitation of experienced awkwardness has come where scars will serve as a reminder of time to wake up. Poverty and waste are on my mind and weakness is on my mind; otherwise we can create a brighter and inspiring future.